

In the Drawings

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-4, 5A and 5B. Specifically, FIGS. 1-4, 5A and 5B have been amended to provide descriptive legends to the boxes therein. Further, FIGS. 4 and 5B have been amended to add labels Ip1 – Ipn and Iq1 – Iqn consistent with the specification.

Attachment: Replacement sheet(s)
Annotated sheet(s) showing changes

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 12, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawing figures have been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Specifically, FIGS. 1-4, 5A and 5B have been amended to provide descriptive legends to the boxes therein. Further, FIGS. 4 and 5B have been amended to add labels Ip1 – Ipn and Iq1 – Iqn consistent with the specification. No new matter has been introduced. Approval of the corrections is respectfully requested.

Canceled Claims

Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1-12 have been amended as necessary to obviate the issues giving rise to the rejection. With respect to the loop latching phase of claim 10, attention is respectfully directed to page 14, lines 11-13 of the section, explaining that “The operation of a delay locked loop includes two distinct phases: a latching phase and a phase during which the elementary time no longer varies;” and to lines 15-17, explaining that “a convergence problem can . . . arise during the latching phase, particularly when latching constraints are severe.” Based on this, it is clear that the latching phase is a phase during which the delay is not yet locked; it is the phase during which the locking is becoming established. With respect to claim 12, the Office Action

questions how the selected number can be memorized. The number of delay cells selected during the latching phase is information which is known after the latching phase is completed. "Means of memorizing the selected number of delay cells" are therefore a circuit (a memory) which stores data representing the number of delay cells. Memories which store data are of course well known circuits in electronics.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Martin (U.S. pat. no. 6,526,374).

Applicants respectfully traverse because Martin does not disclose a delay locked loop (DLL). Rather, Martin discloses a phase locked loop (PLL), in which entry of the delay line is not connected to an entry of the phase detector. Further, in Martin, none of the delay cells is directly connected to an entry of the phase detector. The PLL of Martin provides a continuous periodic signal, whereas the DLL according to the invention provides a non-periodic signal.

It will be appreciated that, according to the M.P.E.P., a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if each and every claim element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.¹ The aforementioned reasons clearly indicate the contrary, and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection based on Martin is respectfully urged.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

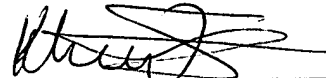
¹ Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2131. See also *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

Dated: 6/12/06


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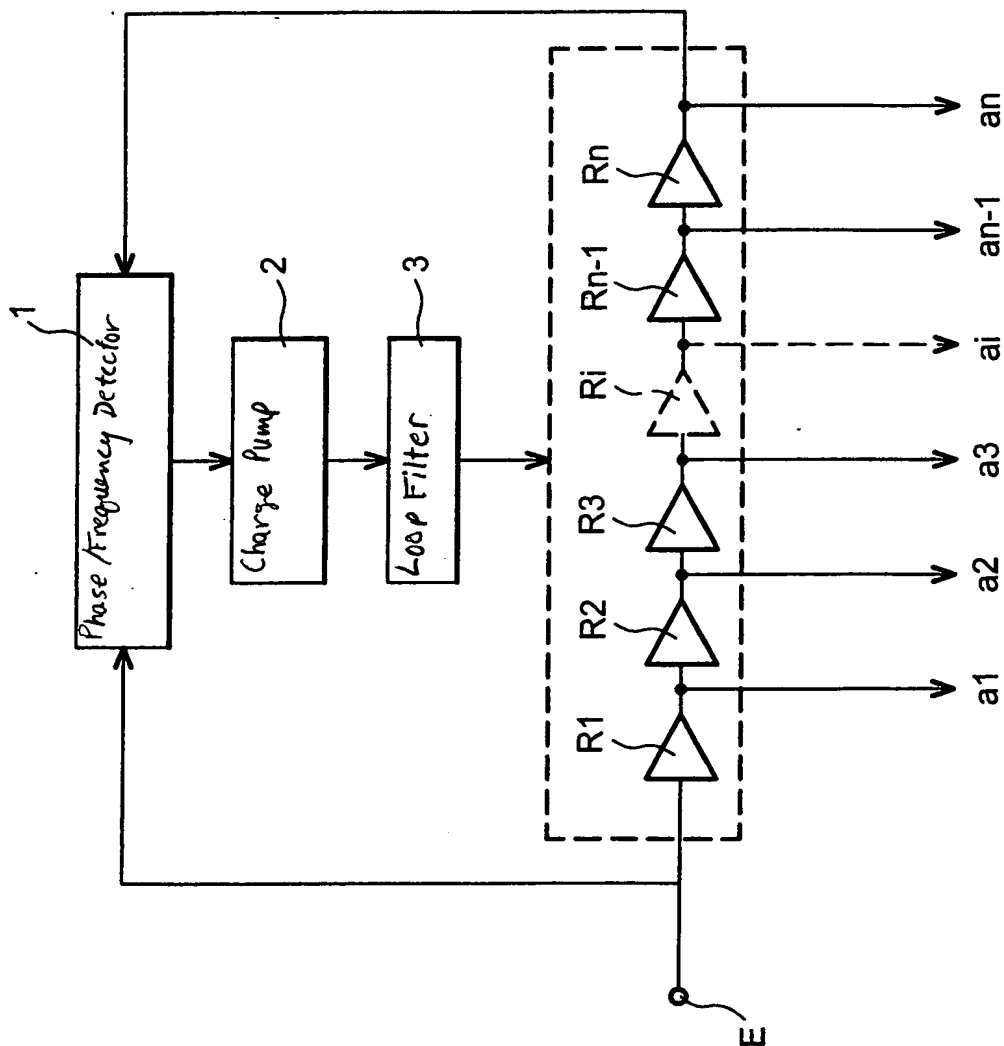


FIG. 1

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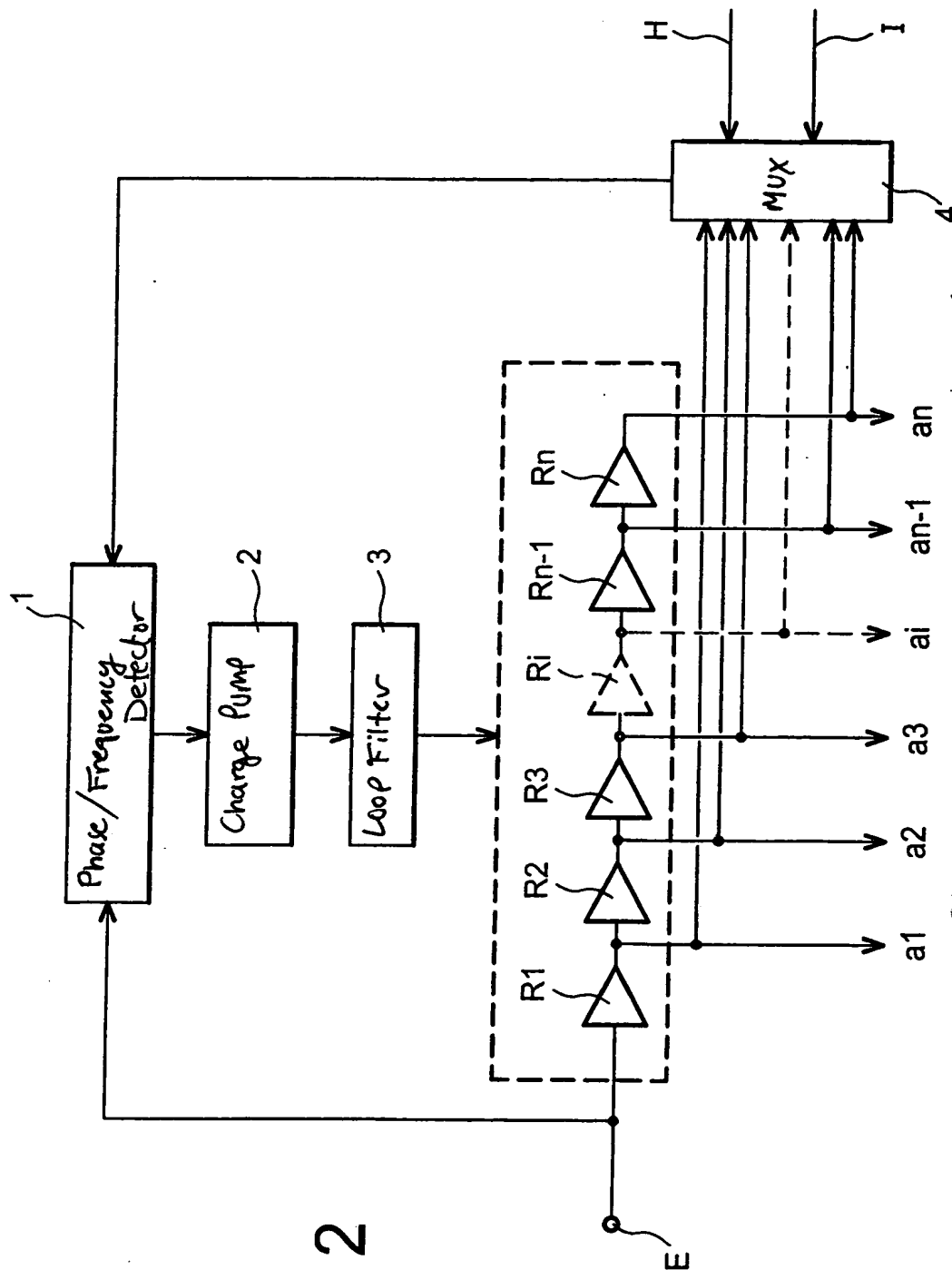
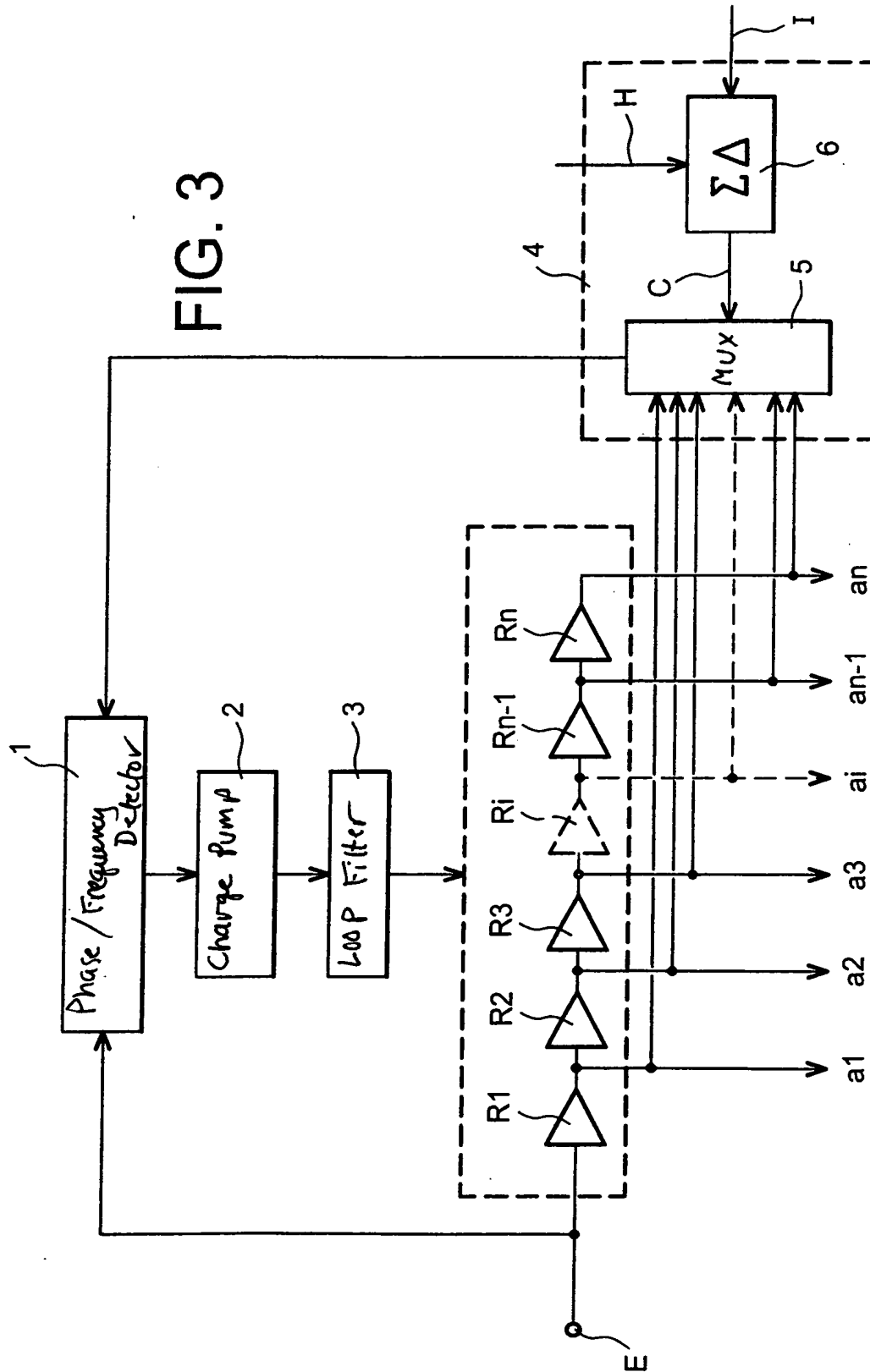


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3



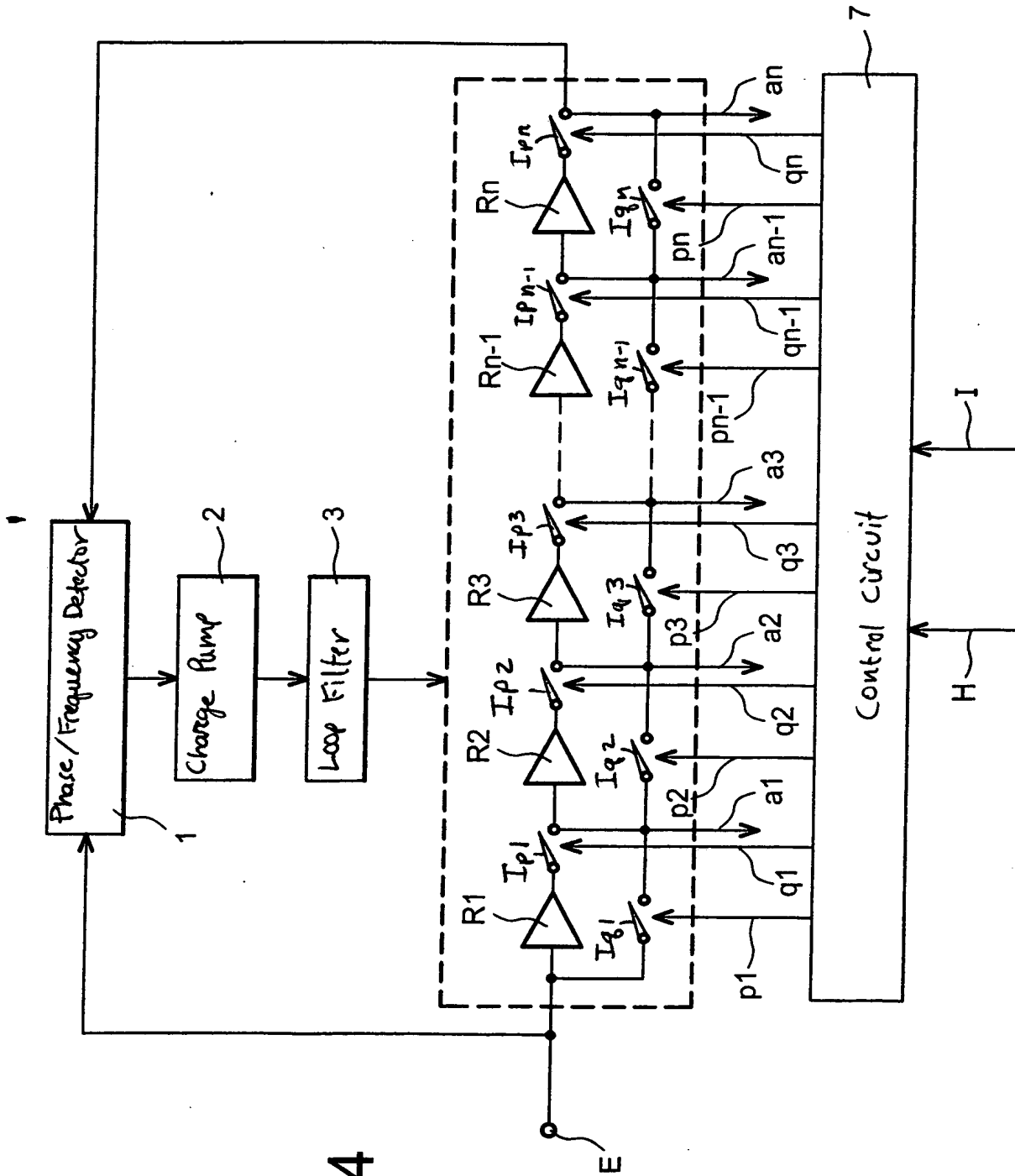
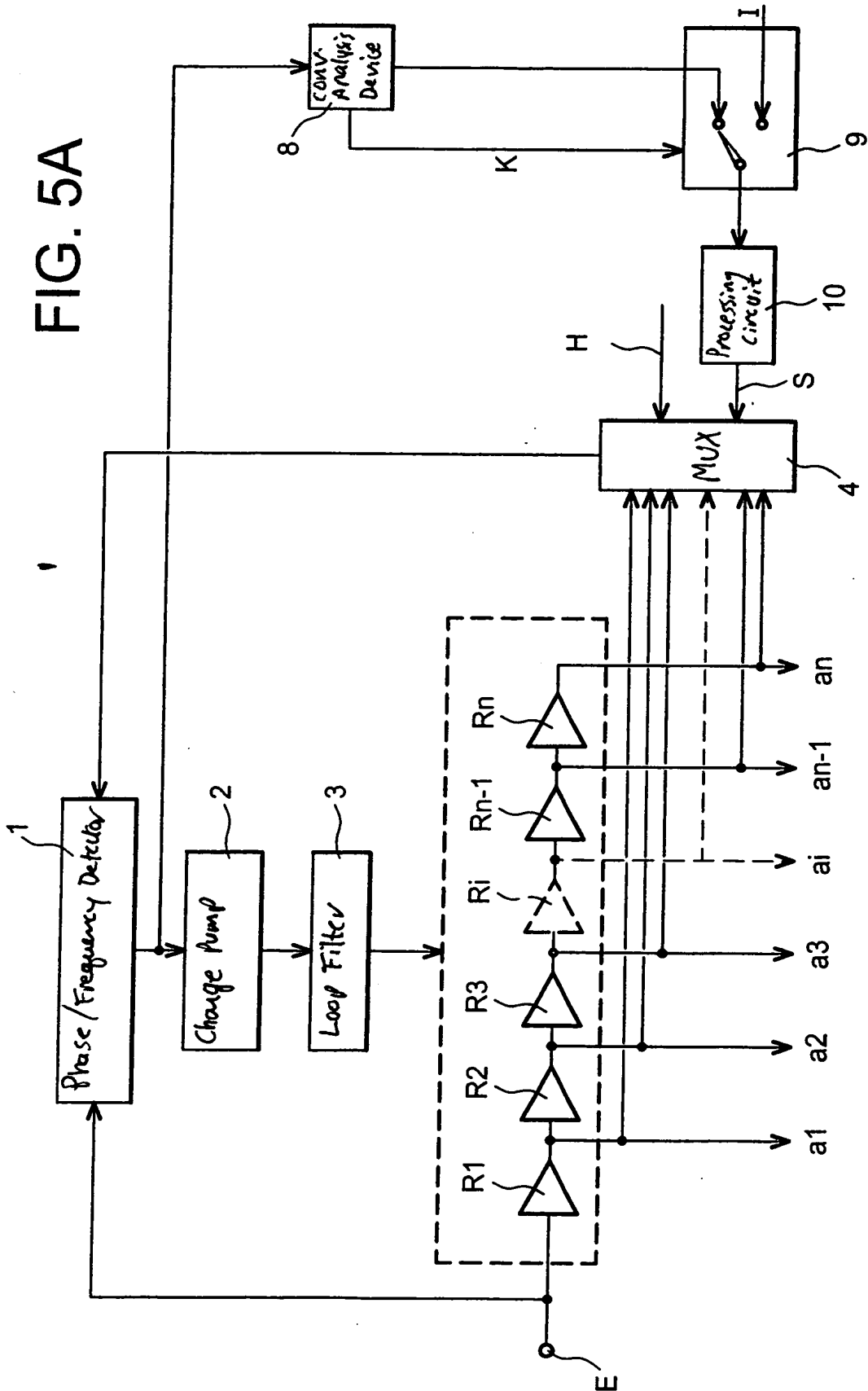


FIG. 4

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FIG. 5A



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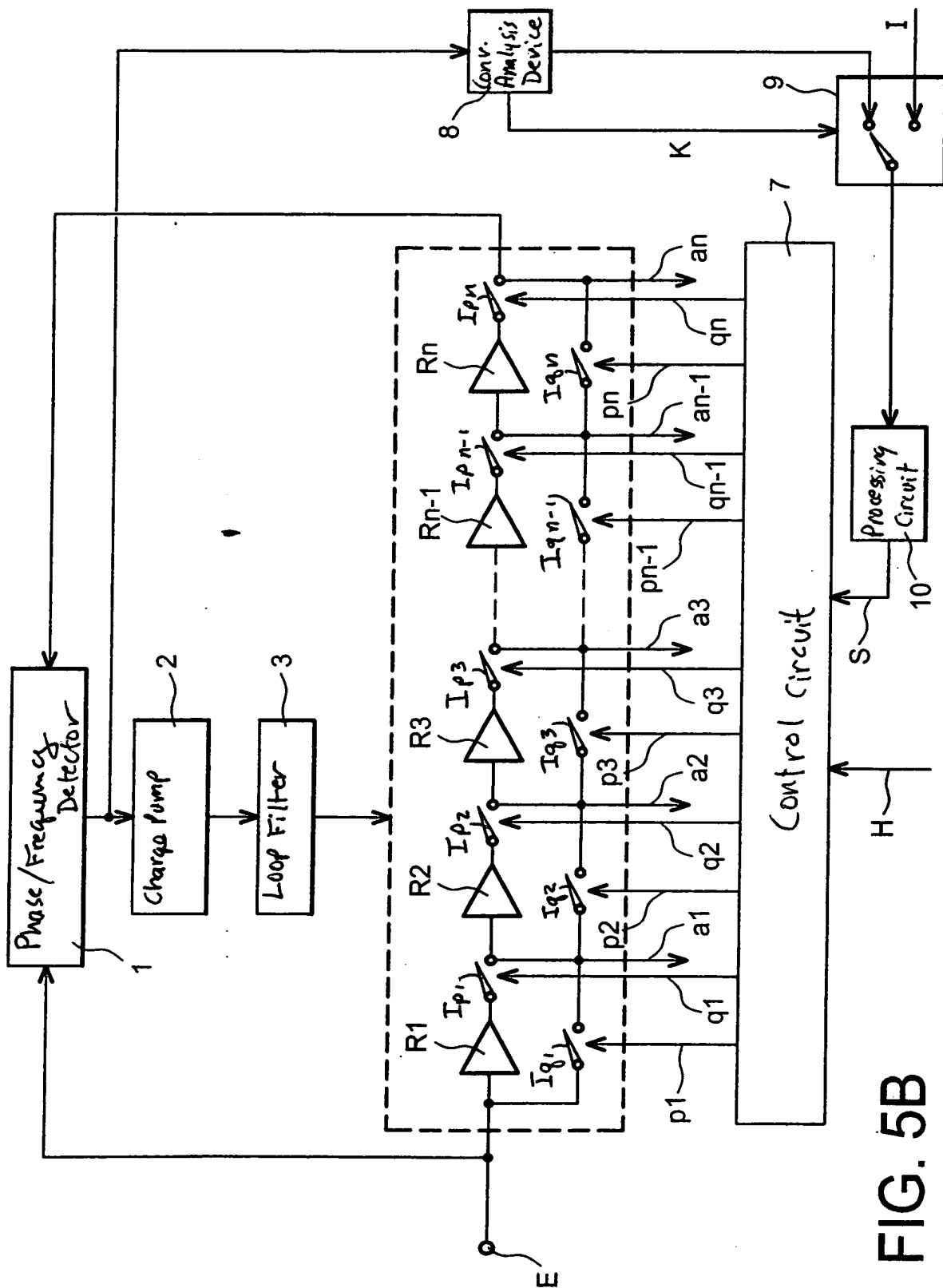


FIG. 5B